

subject amendment is directed i.e. claims 1-11 are not the claims referenced by the Examiner in the Office Action dated September 30, 2003.

Applicant asserts that eight claims were examined in the referenced Office Action dated September 30, 2003. These claims were referenced as claims 1-8 in the subject Office Action. Of the eight (8) claims examined in the referenced Office Action, claims 1-5 and 8 were rejected and claims 6 and 7 allowed. Applicant's First Amendment addressed the claims referenced by the Examiner in the Office Action. However, the LIE has consistently rejected the amendment as a response to the Office Action on the technical grounds that a complete list of claims is not listed in the proposed amendment. Therefore, for the purpose of the response to the Office Action of September 30, 2003, no further reference will be made to the "eight" claims examined in the subject Office Action.

Accordingly, as required by the LIE, Applicant hereby lists claims 1 through 11, as the claims to be addressed in response to the Office Action.

COMPLETE LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Withdrawn) A bristle having a base end, and a tip end connected to each other by means of a substantially rigid shaft portion wherein said base end is fixedly placed on the base portion of a brush device and wherein said substantially rigid shaft has at least one groove along its longitudinal axis and wherein said substantially rigid shaft maintains said bristle in a free-standing upright erect position on the base portion of said brush device but wherein said shaft is sufficiently flexible so that said bristle will twist, bend and rotate on its axis when slight vertical and horizontal pressures are applied to the tip end

of said bristle during brushing or cleaning and such that the twisting, bending and rotating of said bristle upon the application of vertical and horizontal pressure on the tip of said bristle causes the tip end of said bristle and said substantially rigid shaft of said bristle to act as an abrasive device with respect to the surfaces to be cleaned and wherein said bristle is arranged in multiple tufts on said base portion of said brush with each of said tufts comprising multiple bristles and wherein the twisting, bending and abrasiveness of said substantially rigid shaft causes said brush device to be a more effective cleanser.

Claim 2. (Withdrawn) The bristle as claimed in claim 1 wherein the cross-sectional diameter of said spiral groove is approximately 10 to 15 percent of the cross sectional diameter of said bristle and wherein said groove on said bristle may be vertical or run either in a clockwise or counterclockwise direction and wherein on an individual bristle said groove must will run in a vertical clockwise or counterclockwise direction to facilitate the removal of plaque and other waste materials during the cleaning process.

Claim 3. (Withdrawn) A bristle as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said bristle has at least one groove along said substantially rigid shaft and wherein said groove is of uniform diameter throughout the length of said substantially rigid shaft and wherein the ratio of the diameter of said bristle to the diameter of said groove is 4:1.

Claim 4. (Withdrawn) The bristle as claimed in claim 1 wherein each of said bristles is made of a plastic material and wherein said bristles when arranged in tufts of bristles with the base end of said bristles embedded in the base portion of said brush device, said bristles and said tufts are of such flexibility as to be capable of bending and rotating on

an axis at an angle of thirty to ninety degrees when used in scrubbing or cleaning.

Claim 5. (Withdrawn) A bristle for use in toothbrushes, said bristle consisting of a base end, and a tip end connected to each other by means of a substantially rigid shaft portion and wherein said tooth brush includes a head portion and a handle portion and wherein said base end of said bristle is maintained in a fixed position on the head of said toothbrush and wherein said substantially rigid shaft of said bristle has at least one groove along its longitudinal axis and wherein said bristle is capable of standing stiff and erect on said head of said toothbrush but is sufficiently flexible so that said bristle will twist, bend and rotate on its axis, but remain substantially rigid when vertical and horizontal pressures are applied to the tip of said bristle during brushing and such that the twisting, bending and rotating of said bristle upon the application of vertical and horizontal pressure on the tip of said bristle causes the tip end of said bristle and said substantially rigid shaft of said bristle to act as an abrasive device with respect to the surfaces to be cleaned, and wherein the twisting, bending and abrasiveness of said substantially rigid shaft causes said toothbrush to be a more effective cleanser and wherein the application of vertical and horizontal pressure in a back and forth scrubbing motion on the tip of said bristle causes said bristle to twist and rotate in the manner of an agitator of a washing machine, thereby producing fluid cross currents in the saliva and forcing the saliva into the spaces in and around the teeth and gums and wherein the twisting and bending of said shaft of said bristle increases the contacts between said shaft of said bristle and the surface of the teeth and gums so that said groove on said shaft of said bristle acts as an abrasive devices to remove foreign particles lodged

between and around the teeth and gums.

Claim 6. (Withdrawn) A tooth brush as claimed in claim 5 having a head portion and a handle portion wherein said head portion has a plurality of holes adapted for receiving tufts of bristles in each hole and wherein each tuft consists of not less than ten bristles each of said bristles having one or more spiral grooves along said longitudinal axis of said bristles and wherein upon the application of slight pressure to the tips of said bristles and use of a scrubbing action said bristle bends and rotates and agitates saliva in the mouth and wherein said tips and said longitudinal axis of said bristles act as cleaning surfaces with respect to the teeth and gums and whereby said longitudinal axis having said spiral grooves acts as an extended scraping device for the removal of waste materials, including plaque, from the teeth and gums.

Claim 7. (Withdrawn) A brush device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the body portion of said device has a plurality of holes adapted for receiving tufts of bristles in each hole wherein each tuft consists of not less than ten bristles each of said bristles having one or more spiral grooves along said longitudinal axis of said bristle wherein the scrubbing action of said brush device causes said bristle to bend and twist about its axis and to agitate liquid substances which are present in the area to be cleaned and wherein the tips of said bristles and said substantially rigid shaft of said bristles act as cleaning surfaces and whereby said longitudinal axis having said spiral grooves acts as an extended scraping device with respect to the surface to be cleaned.

Claim 8. (Withdrawn) A toothbrush including a bristle having a substantially

rigid shaft having a head portion and a handle portion wherein said head portion has a plurality of holes therein for receiving tufts of said bristle in each hole and wherein each tuft of said bristle consists of at least ten bristles each of said bristles having at least one groove along the longitudinal axis of said bristle and wherein upon the application of pressure to the tip thereof and use of a scrubbing action thereon each bristle of said tufts of bristles bends, rotates and agitates saliva in the mouth and wherein said tip and said longitudinal surface area of each of said bristles in said tufts of bristles act as cleaning surfaces with respect to the teeth and gums and whereby said groove on said longitudinal axis of each bristle acts as an extended scraping device for the removal of waste materials, including plaque, from the teeth and gums.

Claim 9. (Withdrawn) A bristle structure as claimed in claim 5 for use in toothbrushes wherein the application of vertical and horizontal pressure in a back and forth scrubbing motion on the tip of said bristle causes said bristle to twist and rotate in the manner of an agitator of a washing machine, thereby producing fluid cross currents in the saliva and forces the saliva into the spaces in and around the teeth and gums and wherein the twisting and bending of said shaft of said bristle increases the contacts between said shaft of said bristle and the surface of the teeth and gums so that said groove(s) on said shaft of said bristle act as abrasive device to remove foreign particles lodged between and around the teeth and gums.

Claim 10. (Withdrawn) A brush including a bristle having a substantially rigid shaft and a bristle receiving body portion having a plurality of substantially rigid bristles disposed

therein and wherein said body portion of said brush has a plurality of holes adapted for receiving said bristles and wherein said bristles are arranged in tufts of bristles wherein each tuft consists of at least ten bristles and wherein each of said bristles has at least one groove along the longitudinal axis of said substantially rigid shaft of each of said bristles wherein the scrubbing action of said brush causes each of said bristles to bend, twist and rotate about its axis and to agitate liquid substances which are present in the area to be cleaned and wherein the bending, twisting and rotating of said bristles causes the tips of said bristles and said substantially rigid shafts of said bristles to act as cleaning surfaces and whereby said longitudinal axis having said groove acts as an extended scraping device with respect to the surface to be cleaned.

Claim 11. (Withdrawn) A brush device as claimed in claim 6 wherein said at least one groove on said bristle runs either in a clockwise or counter clockwise direction and wherein on an individual bristle said at least one groove runs vertically, clockwise or counter clockwise, only, and wherein said bristle when arranged in tufts of bristles said at least one groove on said bristle comprising said tufts of bristles runs vertically, clockwise or counterclockwise.

Applicant hereby respectfully submits claims 12 through 18 for examination. For the record, claims 12 through 18 have never been presented for examination and are therefore "new" claims. Accordingly, Applicant hereby submits the following claims for examination:

NEW CLAIMS

Claim 12. (New) A bristle for toothbrushes having a base end for fixed attachment to the head portion of a toothbrush and a tip end for brushing and cleaning and wherein said base and tip ends are connected by means of a shaft portion and wherein said shaft portion and said tip end stand upright on said head portion of said toothbrush and wherein said shaft is sufficiently flexible so that application of vertical or horizontal pressure on the tip end and shaft portion of said bristle will cause said bristle to twist, bend or rotate about said base end so that said flexible shaft and said tip end of said bristle are abrasive means for cleaning and wherein said bristle is arranged in tufts on said head portion of said toothbrush said tufts comprising multiple bristles.

Claim 13. (New) A tooth brush as claimed in claim 12 having a head portion and a handle portion wherein said head portion has a plurality of holes adapted for receiving said tufts of bristles in each hole and wherein each tuft of bristles consists of not less than ten of said bristles wherein each of said bristles in said tuft has one or more spiral grooves along the longitudinal axis of said upright shaft of said bristles and wherein upon the application of slight pressure to the tips of said bristles and the use of a scrubbing action said bristles bend, rotate and agitate saliva in the mouth and wherein said scrubbing action makes said tips and said longitudinal axes of said bristles act as abrasive devices for cleaning the teeth and gums and whereby said spiral groove on said longitudinal axis acts as an extended scraping device for the removal of waste materials, including plaque, from the teeth and gums.

Claim 14. (New) A brush device as claimed in claim 12 wherein the base of said brush has a plurality of holes adapted for receiving tufts of bristles in each hole wherein each tuft of bristles consists of not less than ten bristles each of said bristles having one or more spiral grooves along said longitudinal axis of said upright shaft of said bristle wherein the application of slight pressure in a scrubbing motion to the tips and upright shaft of said bristles causes said bristle to bend and twist about its axis and agitate cleaning materials on the surface of the area to be cleaned so that said spiral grooves on said shaft of said bristles act as a scraping device to remove unwanted material from the surface to be cleaned.

Claim 15. (New) A toothbrush including a bristle having a substantially rigid shaft having a head portion and a handle portion wherein said head portion has a plurality of holes therein for receiving tufts of said bristle in each hole and wherein each tuft of said bristle consists of at least ten bristles each of said bristles having at least one groove along the longitudinal axis of said bristle and wherein upon the application of pressure to the tip thereof and use of a scrubbing action thereon each bristle of said tufts of bristles bends, rotates and agitates saliva in the mouth and wherein said tip and said longitudinal surface area of each of said bristles in said tufts of bristles act as a scraping device with respect to the teeth and gums and whereby said groove on said longitudinal axis of each bristle acts as an extended scraping device for the removal of waste materials, including plaque, from the teeth and gums.

Claim 16. (New) A bristle structure as claimed in claim 12 for use in toothbrushes wherein the application of vertical and horizontal pressure in a back and forth scrubbing

motion on the tip of said bristle causes said bristle to twist and rotate in the manner of an agitator of a washing machine, thereby producing fluid cross currents in the saliva and forces the saliva into the spaces in and around the teeth and gums and wherein the twisting and bending of said shaft of said bristle increases the contacts between said shaft of said bristle and the surface of the teeth and gums so that said groove(s) on said shaft of said bristle act as abrasive device to remove foreign particles lodged between and around the teeth and gums.

Claim 17. (New) A brush including a bristle having a substantially rigid shaft and a bristle receiving body portion having a plurality of substantially rigid bristles disposed therein and wherein said body portion of said brush has a plurality of holes adapted for receiving said bristles and wherein said bristles are arranged in tufts of bristles wherein each tuft consists of at least ten bristles and wherein each of said bristles has at least one groove along the longitudinal axis of said substantially rigid shaft of each of said bristles wherein the scrubbing action of said brush causes each of said bristles to bend, twist and rotate about its axis and to agitate liquid substances which are present in the area to be cleaned and wherein the bending, twisting and rotating of said bristles causes the tips of said bristles and said substantially rigid shafts of said bristles to act as cleaning surfaces and whereby said longitudinal axis having said groove acts as an extended scraping device with respect to the surface to be cleaned.

Claim 18. (New) A bristle as claimed in claim 12 wherein said at least one groove on said bristle runs spirally either clockwise or counter clockwise on an individual bristle and